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IMAGE OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS

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Abstract

This paper examines newspaper coverage of Middle Eastern women from 2001 to 2008. The findings indicate that two well-established American newspapers, namely the New York Times and the Washington Post, portray the Middle Eastern negatively. It seems that cross-cultural communication is difficult between the United States and the Middle East due to cultural issues and language barriers. Moreover, differences among religions and value systems have a significant impact on the image of the Middle Eastern women in the public opinion over here.

Keywords: IMAGE, MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN, U.S. NEWSPAPERS

INTRODUCTION

Western understanding of other cultural groups is different because they have different religions and family values. Unless they try to comprehend other cultures, there will be serious problems resulting from the inflexibility of prevalent dogmas in various cultures. There are many stereotypes, which have been framed by the Western media such as, Hispanic, African, Asian, and Middle Eastern. Even though there is a significant number who can see the truth, most of them still prefer to believe the stereotypes of nations or regions. For example, "almost half (44.5%) think Hispanics are people who 'only get jobs as construction workers and custodians.' One third perceive Hispanics to be 'drug dealers who live in cramped apartments with ten other people.' Over a fifth (21%) believe Hispanics are "immigrants who don't know any English and crossed the border."¹ If we look at the case of Africans, it is clearly evident that they do not have good image in the eyes of the Western people as well. They have been portrayed as "primitive," "ignorant," "poor," and "criminal." In the case of the Asian, there have also been some bad stereotypes in the Western countries. The stereotypes of the Asian are "submissive," "humble," "passive," "quiet," and "try to be like Americans." They also have positive stereotypes such as "genius," "great in math and science," "overachiever," and "nerdy."

¹ Hernandez, C. *Old and new stereotypes of Hispanics*. Retrieved from:
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/hs/mckinley/2007/03/old_and_new_stereotypes_of_his.html

One of the most important ethnic groups comes from the Middle East. They have been framed by the Western media, including movies, news coverage, and cartoons. In this study, I will focus on the image of Middle Eastern women in the United States, by analyzing the *New York Times* and *the Washington Post*. I argue that these newspapers do not portray the Middle Eastern women positively due to religious and cultural differences.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The image of the Middle Eastern women is portrayed by newspapers, which are published not only in Europe but also in the US. First of all, it is important to understand how information can be presented, how viewers retrieve this information, and how a news article can be one of the most important provocations in building wrong images.

Is any information necessary for people? Or should people know anything a priori about certain issues? People who are interested in getting information from different sources need to understand how they can retrieve it from the source. First of all, we should highlight that when people are getting information, they must concern about the several aspects of this representation, one of which is intention of the representation (O'Connor, Kearns, & Anderson 2008). In addition, people who are trying to get appropriate information must consider that there is no image, information, or depiction without using a code. Every image, information, or representation carries a code which was already ascribed an implication in specific or general concept. With the light of this cognizance, we can conclude that the image of the Middle Eastern women could be presented with some codes by the international media. This representation can give by using photograph, text, or video by international mass media. According to Mowlana (1991), "an image may be defined as a combinatorial construct whose subject is itself a collection of images in the individual memory of various aspects of reality. It is the totality of attributes that a person recognizes or imagines. Images are to varying degrees interdependent on one another. The structure of one is inferred or predicted from that of another; and change in one produces imbalance and, therefore, change in others." (p. 3). If we focus on the image of the Middle East, we can conclude that this image change can be related to perception of others. In this regard, we can conclude that there are several factors that affect the perception of an image about the Middle East as well as Middle Eastern women.

In the article of *Elements of Cross-Cultural Communication and the Middle East*, Mazharul Haque talks about the possibility of misunderstandings between the Americans and the Middle Eastern Arabs. He says:

If we consider one of the most basic elements of culture, namely, its worldview, Americans and Middle Easterners are separated by divergence of their worldviews. Worldview has to do with a "culture's orientation toward such things as God, humanity, nature, the universe and other philosophical issues that are concerned with the concept of being" (Porter & Samovar, 1985, p. 26). Porter and Samovar point out that worldview influences a culture in a profound way. Its effects are subtle, and it may not be visible in such external things as dress, gestures, or vocabulary, but it influences beliefs, values, attitudes, and numerous other facets of life (p.18).

According to Haque, we can talk about the appearance of Arab women on Shaheen's perspective. Shaheen (1985) focuses on problematic illustrations of Arab people in the American culture and some stereotypes of Arabs who have been portrayed negatively by mass media instruments. In addition to that, according to author, it is clearly seen that media is the most crucial constituent to influence policymakers' decisions, and Arabs' world is damaged by this kind of effectiveness of the media coverage. Since policymakers' actions can canalize all events inversely, images and ideas of Middle East, especially Arabs' situation, should be portrayed correct and unsusceptible by media coverage. Arabs, as an apparent stereotype, are generally presented as not only "barbaric and cruel" and "wealthy" but also "sex maniacs" and "terrorists" (Shaheen, 1985). On the other hand, Shaheen (1985) argues that Arabs are not such things as those harmful labels, and he shows his arguments with some statistical evidence. As an example, all Arabs are described as sloping to kill other people; nevertheless, the Arab society is one of the safest countries in the world (Shaheen, 1985). Another good source to understand Arab Maidens is the book *Reel Bad Arabs* from Shaheen. In this book he talks about Arabs maidens and their appearance on the specific films. For example, he talks about movies that allow Arab maidens to embrace Western males, such as *A Café in Cairo (1925)*, and *Arabesque (1966)*. In these films, the Arab maidens were ridiculed and the scenarios allow them to show Arab maidens failings to Western protagonists. He also talks about costumes and clothing of Arab women. Shaheen thinks that wearing black is an indication of the relegated silence and oppression of Arab women.

In an article entitled *Middle Eastern Women in Western Eyes: A Study of U.S. Press Photographs of Middle Eastern Women*, Karin Gwinn Wilkins talks about the images of Eastern women in the media. She thinks that if American women are showed to be trivialized in the media, definitely the Eastern women are showed more trivialized in the media. In her article, Said talks about Orientalism, which shows us the reflection of Western culture and values in the Eastern region. The article concludes with the Middle Eastern women's cultural view shown as distant, covered with the veil for direct view, passive and impersonal (Wilkins, 1997).

The Middle Eastern women are shown as passive characters within a masculine narrative, even though they have their liberties in the society. In contrast, American news coverage does not have the positive images of the Middle Eastern women as an active worker. Related to this topic, *Women and Globalization: A Study of 180 Countries, 1975-2000* discusses the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), established in 1979, which demonstrates the equality of women. The article has the examples about having CEDAW and its effects on women roles. One example is about Turkey. It says:

The Turkish "women's organizations that emerged and became active in the 1980s have used CEDAW and other means to push for tangible changes." (P.301).

In the conclusion, the author concludes that the organization of CEDAW helps improve women's justice to literacy and birth control.

HYPOTHESES

Even though there are many researches about the image of the Middle East or Middle Eastern people in general, I could not find enough research that analyzed the image of the Middle Eastern women in the Western newspapers. Under the light of *Orientalism* theory of Edward Said who

says “imperialism shaped the discourse of both academic studies and Western literature by creating stereotypes of the Islamic world” (pp. 1595), I argue:

H₁: The Middle Eastern women have been portrayed as passive individuals by the U.S. media coverage. In fact, they have been considered that they do not have independent thinking, and they do not have ability of socialization because of lack of sophistication.

METHOD

According to O’Connor and Greisdorf (2002), when a viewer, reader, or receiver is searching, getting, or looking for an image, there are some levels of perception, including primitive features, which contain color, shape, and texture. The other level of perception is an object, which comprise person/thing, place/location, and activity. Last level of perception is inductive interpretation, which includes symbolic value and prototypical displacement (Greisdorf & O’Connor, 2002). It can be clearly said that when a viewer looks at the newspaper, her/his perception probably will depend on those levels of perception. As a result, when we analyze the impact of the news photos, we should not ignore those important levels of perception. In the light of this perception, I decided to analyze the image of Middle Eastern women by researching the texts of newspapers. Therefore, I could analyze how an image was manipulated by news coverage by creating different images.

In this study, I used quantitative content analysis as a method. According to Wimmer and Dominic (2006), quantitative content analysis is “a method of studying and analyzing communication in a systematic, objective, and quantitative manner for the purpose of measuring variables.”(p. 150). The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* was chosen as samples of this study. I chose these newspapers due to fact that they have not only national but also international news coverage. The content analysis was applied to 150 newspapers’ articles from September 11, 2001 to December 5, 2008 by dividing 75 articles each from the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. I selected September 11, 2001 referred to as nine-eleven because in that time, series of coordinated suicide attacks by Al-Qaeda crashed two of the airlines into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. After crashing the airlines, most people died on board when they were working. Al-Qaeda is described as a group, which was established by Usama Bin Laden in Afghanistan in the period of Taliban administration (Moody, 2008). As a result, nine-eleven can be considered as the beginning of framing more news articles than before. Each newspaper’s article was examined on electronic researchers of University of North Texas (<http://www.lexisnexis.com/us/lnacademic/auth/checkbrowser.do?ipcounter=1&cookieState=0&rand=0.9454843995346293&bhcp=1>). Like date and newspapers, another limitation for news articles is the length of articles. It was not selected if the article’s length was less than 500 words. As last, while the articles were selecting, randomly selected method was used for sample selection. If we spotlight the independent and dependent variable of this study, we can say that independent variables are role, conspicuousness, appearances, victim status, environment, independent thinking, expressiveness, outgoingness, positive outlook toward life, sexiness, sexualisation, education, sociability, and sophistication level of the Middle Eastern women

Furthermore, target population of this study was the newspapers’ texts. Selected articles from newspapers were coded as fourteen categories, which include subtitles, and these categories were divided two groups as content and scale section. Content categories are as fallow:

Role: In this category, there are eight subtitles to describe what the Middle Eastern women's role is in news article. Mother/housewife, businessperson, clerk, scientist, artist, student, terrorist, and other including prisoners, activists, suicide bombers, and children who throw stone to tank are subtitles.

Conspicuousness: This category was used to identify the visibility of the Middle Eastern women in their own society in the news article. Major role, minor role, and background role are subtitles of this category.

Appearances: This category focus on the appearances of the Middle Eastern women in the selected articles. How are they portrayed as women? The subtitles are veil, headscarf, and garment, uncovered, and ragged in this category.

Victim status: As a Middle Eastern women, they are portrayed victim of something, and those things carry negative aspects beside them. The subtitles of this category are having many children, polygamy, abuse, poverty, virginity (blood feud), Islam/Islamic groups, political establishment, and European countries, which banned wearing headscarf in their country.

Environment: The purpose of this category to identify what kind of environment the Middle Eastern women have been described when news or story makers framed the news text. The subtitles of this category are the battlefield, workplace, home, wrecked place, school, and other including hotel, prison, and street.

Other categories are under the Scale section. In this section there are five scales including highest (1), high (2), medium (3), low (4), and lowest (5). Those categories:

Independent thinking: In this scale, the main purpose was the measure whether the Middle Eastern women have independent thinking in Western newspapers, or not.

Expressiveness: This scale measure whether the Middle Eastern women have been framed as having expressiveness in their current society, or they are under the oppression of regimes or religion.

Outgoingness: This scale identifies that women have freedom to go shopping and buy whatever they want.

Positive outlook toward life: In this section, this scale measures that the Middle Eastern women have enjoy their lives, or not.

Sexiness: How have the Middle Eastern women been portrayed in their appearances. Is their sexiness on foreground or not?

Sexualisation: In this scale, the purpose is to measure that the Middle Eastern women get sex. Is their sexualisation on foreground in the news article, or not?

Educatedness: The question is whether the news covered the Middle Eastern women as educated or uneducated.

Sociability: In this scale, as straight with education, how sociability of the Middle Eastern women is framed in these newspapers.

Sophistication level: This scale's target is to examine quality of being intelligent of the Middle Eastern women in selected articles from two newspapers.

RESULTS

If we focus on the interpretation of the tables, it is clearly said that there are many significant result in this study. First of all, it should be started with the frequencies of this study. For example, first table indicates the central tendency part that includes mean, median, and mode. If we look at the mean of appearances, we can say that in the table, we can see the total number of articles is N=150, and there is no missing data in there. The mean is 2.47 that mean average of the answers are low. Therefore, we can conclude that appearance category is low according to the mean of this dat. The median, for example, is 2.00 for this category. If we look at the median score, we can conclude that generally, women who covered headscarf (2) are portrayed in selected articles. If we look at the mode of this variable, 2, we can conclude that the most common score in this data is 2. In fact, most common answer is headscarf according to this result.

Frequencies

	N Valid	Missing	Mean	Median	Mode	Std. Deviation	Variance	Skewness	Std. Error of Skewness	Std. Error of Kurtosis	Range	Minimum	Maximum
news paper name	150	0	1.50	1.50	1(a)	.502	.252	.000	.198	.394	1	1	2
month of news	150	0	6.65	6.50	1(a)	3.556	12.646	-.062	.198	.394	11	1	12
date of news	150	0	16.51	16.00	8(a)	8.709	75.849	-.060	.198	.394	30	1	31
year of news	150	0	4.86	5.00	5	2.007	4.027	-.229	.198	.394	7	1	8
length of article	148	2	1.61	2.00	2	.541	.293	.052	.199	.396	2	1	3
dateline of the news	69	81	2.06	2.00	3	.906	.820	-.116	.289	.570	2	1	3
role	150	0	3.91	3.00	1	2.826	7.986	.270	.198	.394	7	1	8
conspicuousness	150	0	2.06	2.00	2	.726	.527	-.092	.198	.394	2	1	3
appearances	150	0	2.47	2.00	2	1.054	1.110	.699	.198	.394	4	1	5

victim status	150	0	5.76	6.00	6	1.903	3.620	-.936	.198	.394	7	1	1	8
environment	150	0	3.45	3.00	3	1.612	2.598	.226	.198	.394	5	1	1	6
independent thinking	150	0	3.13	3.00	5	1.413	1.996	-.109	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
expressiveness	150	0	3.16	3.00	3(a)	1.376	1.894	-.089	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
outgoingness	150	0	3.26	3.00	3	1.358	1.845	-.190	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
positive outlook toward life	150	0	3.37	4.00	5	1.393	1.940	-.392	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
sexiness	150	0	4.19	5.00	5	1.348	1.817	-.1396	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
sexualization	150	0	4.39	5.00	5	1.074	1.153	-.1730	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
educatedness	150	0	2.88	3.00	2	1.483	2.200	.259	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
sociality	150	0	2.99	3.00	3(a)	1.445	2.087	.120	.198	.394	4	1	1	5
sophistication level	150	0	2.93	3.00	3	1.427	2.036	.203	.198	.394	4	1	1	5

Table Caption a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

Table 1

If we focus on the scale category, we should start with the mean and standard deviation of “independent thinking.” The mean of this variable is 3.13 and standard deviation is 1.413 that means there is no big difference between the answers for this variable.

In table 1, Expressiveness's mean is 3.16 and standard deviation 1.376 which means same as "independent thinking" level. "Outgoingness" has mean 3.26 and standard deviation is 1.358. We can conclude that again difference between answers in scale is not different from each other. If look at the "positive outlook toward life," we can conclude that mean is 3.37 and standard deviation is 1.393. Like other variable, this variable is also can be considered that there is no difference between answers. The category of "sexiness" gives us the generally the sexiness of the Middle East women are portrayed not sexy because the mean is 4.19 and the standard deviation is 1.348 which means the answer almost same with each other. In table 1, the mean of "sexualization" is 4.39, which means almost the Middle Eastern women have not been portrayed in sexualization category by the U.S. media coverage. The standard deviation is 1.074, which means the answers are really close to each other. In the part of "educatedness," mean is 2.88 and standard deviation is 1.483 which means that there is difference between the answers of this scale. "Sociability" shows that mean is 2.99 and standard deviation 1.445. It is similar to educatedness. We can conclude that the level of sociability is related to level of educatedness. "Sophistication level" is also similar to other two variables. These three categories are related to each other.

If we look at the table 2, we can conclude that in the role category, the frequency of "mother/housewife" has the biggest number (59, N=150). We can say that in the news, the Middle Eastern Women were often portrayed as mother or housewife, and the percentage of this value in whole sample is 37.3.

Role

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Mother / housewife	56	37.3	37.3	37.3
Business person	14	9.3	9.3	46.7
Clerk	8	5.3	5.3	52.0
Scientist / technologist	4	2.7	2.7	54.7
Artist	9	6.0	6.0	60.7
Student	24	16.0	16.0	76.7
Terrorist	6	4.0	4.0	80.7
Other	29	19.3	19.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Table 2

In the table 3, conspicuousness*Roles Recoded Cross tabulation, the result of roles cross tabulation should be analyzed because the results of this variable are very significant. There are three categories including major, minor, and background role. Chi Square analysis revealed significant differences in roles categories $X^2 (2, N=150)=27.945, p=.000$. Therefore, we can say that the “ H_2 : The Middle Eastern women have been announced to the world as passive character of Middle East by the U.S. media coverage. In fact, they have been considered that they do not have independent thinking, and they do not have ability of socialization because of lack of sophistication” is supported according to this result. The background role of the Middle Eastern women is highly portrayed than major role of the Middle Eastern women in these two newspapers.

Conspicuousness * Roles Recoded Crosstabulation

		Roles Recoded	Total		
		Positive	Negative	Positive	
conspicuousness	major role	Count	19	16	35
		% within Roles Recoded	54.3%	13.9%	23.3%
	minor role	Count	14	57	71
		% within Roles Recoded	40.0%	49.6%	47.3%
	background role	Count	2	42	44
		% within Roles Recoded	5.7%	36.5%	29.3%
Total	Count	35	115	150	
	% within Roles Recoded	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 3

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	27.945(a)	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	27.948	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	25.818	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	150		

a 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 8.17.

If we look at the table 4, we can conclude that the positive roles of the term of independent thinking is 2.57 (S=1.399), but negative role of it is 3.30 (S=1.378), $t(148) = -2.746, p = .007$. Expressiveness is 2.54 (S=2.245) for positive role, but 3.35 (S=1.364) for negative side, $t(148) = -3.118, p = .002$. Therefore, we can conclude that expressiveness level of the Middle Eastern women has been portrayed negative rather than positive. As a result, **H₂**: The Middle Eastern

women have been announced to the world as passive character of Middle East by the U.S. media coverage. In fact, they have been considered that they do not have independent thinking, and they do not have ability of socialization because of lack of sophistication level is supported according to this result. If we focus on the outgoingness of the group statistics, we can see that positive mean of the outgoingness is 2.60 (S=1.311), whereas the negative mean is 3.46 (S=1.313). $t(148) = -3.397$, $p = .001$. Therefore, it is obvious that the result is significant because outgoingness of the Middle Eastern women have been portrayed in negative side rather than positive side. As a result we can conclude that the second hypothesis of this study was supported by this result. Other significant result is positive outlook toward life. The positive mean score for this variable is 2.54 (S=1.379), but the negative mean score for this variable is 3.63 (S=1.301). $t(148) = -4.253$, $p = .000$. In this variable, there is very significant result due to fact that the negative outlook toward life for the Middle Eastern women has been portrayed highly instead of positive outlook toward life. Therefore, we can conclude that the Middle Eastern women have not been happy in their lives. The term sexiness is other significant result in the scale section; in fact, the positive result for the mean of sexiness is 3.63 (S=1.592), but the negative result is 4.36 (S=1.223). $t(46.849) = -2.491$, $p = .016$. By seeing this result, we can inference that the sexiness of the Middle East women has not been portrayed highly by the U.S. media coverage. If we spotlight the sexualization, the data shows that the positive mean of the sexualization is 4.06 (S=1.349), yet the negative sexualization is 4.50 (S=.959). $t(44.934) = -1.790$, $p = .080$. This data demonstrates that the result is not significant for this variable; indeed, we cannot produce any inference about the sexualization according to this data. The variable of educatedness is a significant result too like others. The positive mean of the educatedness is 2.17 (S=1.339), whereas the negative mean of the educatedness is 3.10 (S=1.463). $t(148) = -3.335$, $p = .001$. According to this result, it is clearly seen that educatedness of the Middle Eastern women has been portrayed more positive than negative by these two newspapers. The term sociability is other significant result in this study. In fact, the positive mean of the sociability is 2.23 (S=1.262), but the negative sociability level is 3.23 (S=1.421). $t(148) = -3.728$, $p = .000$. According to this result, we can inference that the sociability of the Middle Eastern women is high rather than negative. As the last, the sophistication level of the Middle Eastern women is another important result for this research. In fact, the positive mean of the sophistication level is 2.29 (S=1.341), yet the negative level is 3.13 (S=1.399). $t(148) = -3.158$, $p = .002$. For this variable, we can say that the sophistication level is related to educatedness and sociability level of the Middle Eastern women. If the women have been imaged as educated in the news, their sociability and sophistication level have been portrayed high too.

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means							
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower
independent thinking	Equal variances assumed			-2.746	148	.007	-.733	.267	-1.260	-.205
	Equal variances not assumed	.034	.855	-2.723	55.576	.009	-.733	.269	-1.272	-.194
expressiveness	Equal variances assumed	1.074	.302	-3.118	148	.002	-.805	.258	-1.315	-.295
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.274	60.959	.002	-.805	.246	-1.297	-.313
outgoingness	Equal variances assumed	.044	.835	-3.397	148	.001	-.861	.253	-1.362	-.360

	Equal variances not assumed			-3.401	56.380	.001	-.861	.253	-1.368	-.354
positive outlook toward life	Equal variances assumed	.499	.481	-4.253	148	.000	-1.083	.255	-1.587	-.580
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.122	53.726	.000	-1.083	.263	-1.610	-.556
sexiness	Equal variances assumed	11.548	.001	-2.864	148	.005	-.728	.254	-1.230	-.226
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.491	46.849	.016	-.728	.292	-1.316	-.140
sexualization	Equal variances assumed	10.412	.002	-2.141	148	.034	-.439	.205	-.843	-.034
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.790	44.934	.080	-.439	.245	-.932	.055
educatedness	Equal variances assumed	1.925	.167	-3.335	148	.001	-.924	.277	-1.472	-.377
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.49	60.789	.001	-.924	.264	-1.453	-.396

	ces not assumed			7						
sociability	Equal variances assumed	2.192	.141	-3.728	148	.000	-.998	.268	-1.526	-.469
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.972	62.504	.000	-.998	.251	-1.499	-.496
sophistication level	Equal variances assumed	.249	.618	-3.158	148	.002	-.845	.268	-1.373	-.316
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.230	58.337	.002	-.845	.262	-1.368	-.321

Table 4

Group Statistics

	Roles Recoded	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
independent thinking	Positive	35	2.57	1.399	.237
		115	3.301378	.128	
expressiveness	Positive	35	2.54	1.245	.210
		115	3.35	1.364	.127
outgoingness	Positive	35	2.60	1.311	.222
		115	3.46	1.313	.122
positive outlook toward life	Positive	35	2.54	1.379	.233
		115	3.63	1.301	.121
sexiness	Positive	35	3.63	1.592	.269
		115	4.36	1.223	.114
sexualization	Positive	35	4.06	1.349	.228
		115	4.50	.959	.089
educatedness	Positive	35	2.17	1.339	.226
		115	3.10	1.463	.136
sociability	Positive	35	2.23	1.262	.213
		115	3.23	1.421	.132
sophistication level	Positive	35	2.29	1.341	.227
		115	3.13	1.399	.130

Table 5

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, if we take as a reference that there is no good stereotype, and all stereotypes, which are positive and negative, are bad, we can say that the image of the Middle Eastern women portrayed negatively by the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. According to these results, like Middle East as a region, and other stereotypic nations, the Middle Eastern women's portray is not positive in these two newspapers, and my hypothesis that the Middle Eastern women have been portrayed as passive individuals by the U.S. media coverage. In fact, they have been considered that they do not have independent thinking, and they do not have ability of socialization because of lack of sophistication is supported by these significant results. The American media coverage is one of the most important news organizations around the world, and everyone can feel the influence of this news coverage. Its stereotypes about the other nation should be limited because of the policy relationships among countries. Therefore, the American newsmakers or filmmakers should listen other side of them, and they should try to be close objective about the other nations. Because the American and Middle Eastern culture and religion is different from each other, it is imperative when a nation is portrayed by the other nation's media coverage, they should be careful about the stereotypes of other nation.

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